

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6017

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO MARITIME COORDINATION GROUP

REF: A. USNATO 4382

B. STATE 179611

C. USNATO 4339

BEGIN SUMMARY. SEVERAL ALLIES HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER MC-232 WHICH ESTABLISHES THE NATO MARITIME COORDINATION GROUP AND REQUESTS THE DPC TO TAKE NOTE OF THIS ACTION. THE NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK, IN PARTICULAR, WOULD PREFER TO REMOVE THE NATO LABEL FROM THE GROUP AND HAVE IT FUNCTION ON A MULTILATERAL BASIS INSTEAD. MISSION RECOMMENDS THE US BE WILLING TO ACCEPT SOME DEGREE OF COMPROMISE BUT NOT TO THE POINT OF GIVING UP THE NATO LABEL. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS BY NOV 6. END SUMMARY.

1. ASYG HUMPHREYS CALLED AN INFORMAL MEETING ON OCT 22 TO DISCUSS DRAFT PO ON SUBJECT (REF A). INTERNATIONAL STAFF IS COORDINATING
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IN ADVANCE IN ORDER TO AVOID SERIOUS DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WHEN DPC CONSIDERS FINAL VERSION OF PO. REPRESENTATIVES FROM DENMARK, THE NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, PORTUGAL, UK AND THE US WERE PRESENT AT MEETING.

2. BASED ON DISCUSSION WITH CAPITALS, NETHERLANDS AND DANISH REPS OFFERED SIGNIFICANT CHANGES WHICH WOULD AFFECT THE BASIC DOCUMENT, MC-232, WHICH THE MILITARY COMMITTEE APPROVED ON JUL 23, 1974 AND FORWARDED TO THE SYG WITH THE REQUEST THAT THE DPC TAKE NOTE. THE NETHERLANDS REP REQUESTED THAT THE PO CHANGE THE TITLE FROM "NATO MARITIME COORDINATION GROUP" TO "MARITIME EXERCISE INFORMATION GROUP". HE ALSO SUBMITTED PROPOSALS FOR REVISED WORDING WHICH WOULD STRESS EVEN MORE THE VOLUNTARY NATURE OF THE GROUP AND THAT NATO'S ROLE WOULD BE LIMITED TO PROVIDING FACILITIES AT CINCHANG HQ FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

3. DANISH REP AGREED WITH THESE PROPOSALS AND FURTHER REQUESTED REMOVING THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GROUP FROM CINCHAN AUSPICES. THIS WOULD RESULT IN THE GROUP BEING COMPOSED OF OFFICERS FROM NATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WITH ONE OF OFFICERS ACTING AS CHAIRMAN.

4. ALTHOUGH WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS, THE NORWEGIAN AND PORTUGUESE REPS FAVORED THE DUTCH AND DANISH PROPOSALS, FEELING THEIR CAPITALS WOULD WELCOME REMOVAL OF THE NATO LABEL.

5. THE UK AND US REPS PREFERRED MC-232 IN ITS PRESENT FORM AS AMPLIFIED BY THE ORIGINAL DRAFT PO.

6. UNABLE TO GAIN AGREEMENT AT THIS INFORMAL MEETING, HUMPHREYS ASKED THE DUTCH AND DANISH REPS TO SEEK SOME FLEXIBILITY IN THEIR POSITIONS. REPS REPLIED THAT THEY EXPECT POSITIONS WILL HARDEN AS THE QUESTION GETS HIGHER-LEVEL ATTENTION IN CAPITALS. HUMPHREYS WILL HOLD ANOTHER DISCUSSION IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

7. MISSION RECOGNIZES THAT THE MARITIME COORDINATION GROUP IS NOT ONE OF THE KEY ISSUES FACING NATO AT THIS TIME. NEVERTHELESS IT DOES FOLLOW UP ON A 1971 DPC RECOMMENDATION BASED ON THE AD-70 IN THE CONTEXT OF MARITIME FLEXIBILITY. MISSION BELIEVES THAT THE US SHOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT SOME WORDING CHANGES WHICH
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WOULD RELIEVE ALLIES' ANXIETIES WHEREVER POSSIBLE. WE WOULD EVEN RECOMMEND ACCEPTING A REASONABLE CHANGE IN THE GROUP'S NAME. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE GROUP SHOULD REMAIN IN THE NATO CONTEXT, RETAINING SOME REFERENCE TO NATO IN ITS TITLE AND REMAINING UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CINCHAN.

8. IN OUR VIEW, THE GROUP PROPERLY SHOULD BE A NATO ORGANIZATION. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS BY NOV 6.
MC AULIFFE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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